

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2020

The Honorable Matthew Lohr
Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 5105-A
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Lohr,

We are writing to introduce Coconino County's application for a \$285,000 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Coconino County is the second-largest county by landmass in the U.S., comprised almost entirely of public land, with only 13 percent private land. It also sits in the largest Ponderosa pine forest in the world, which has been devastated by catastrophic wildfires for the last two-decades, resulting in the degradation of critical watersheds essential to the viability of northern Arizona. For example, in 2010, the Schulz fire threatened nine watersheds.

NRCS was instrumental in restoring those watersheds in the aftermath of this fire, and we applaud NRCS for stepping in to help.

Last year, the Museum Fire threatened Coconino County's largest city, Flagstaff, and a critical watershed on the northern side of the city. The county has worked closely with State NRCS staff as well as you and your team at headquarters. Without the construction of long-term flood mitigation measures downstream of this compromised watershed, monsoons will pose a public safety threat to private properties and public infrastructure in the County and City. The County and City have erected jersey barriers and other temporary flood mitigation tactics.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you carefully review Coconino County's application for a \$285,000 RCPP grant to construct these long-term flood mitigation measures to protect these communities from future flooding and destruction per all rules, regulations, and applicable law.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and please accept our best regards.

Sincerely,



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



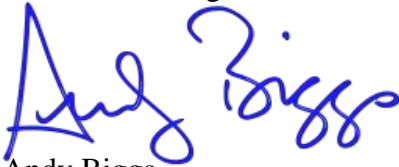
Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress